

VZCZCXRO4899
OO RUEHCI
DE RUEHKT #1249 1761219
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 251219Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6388
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 5891
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 6196
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1437
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4222
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5495
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1640
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 3625
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1748
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2807
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001249

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/25/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: CABINET SETS DATE OF NOVEMBER 22 FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

Constituent Assembly Election on November 22

¶1. (U) The Nepali Cabinet agreed at its meeting on June 24 to hold the Constituent Assembly election on November 22. The decision, which had been expected at the previous cabinet meeting on June 21, was on the early side of the range of dates under consideration. Prime Minister Koirala had publicly indicated his preference for an election on November 26, while the Election Commission had endorsed November 23. On May 31, the Seven-Party Alliance and the Maoists had agreed to hold the election within the Nepali month of Mangsir -- November 17 to December 15. The Cabinet also decided to give the Electoral Constituency Delineation Commission 21 additional days to review its report.

Positive Reaction

¶2. (C) The reaction to the news that the Government of Nepal (GON) had finally agreed on a date for the election was strongly positive. Minendra Rijal, a Nepali Congress - Democratic Member of Parliament, told Emboff June 25 that he and his party welcomed the Cabinet's decision. Jhalanath Khanal, a Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist Leninist (UML) MP, also stated that he was very pleased by the decision. Failure by the GON to announce a date on June 24 would have called into question the UML's ability to continue supporting the current government, he added. Election Commissioner Neelkantha Uprety said the Election Commission was happy with the announcement of the election date and that the Commission would formally thank the GON June 25. He noted that it would now be easier for the Commission to move ahead with election preparations, and closed with an appeal for the GON to improve the peace and security situation in the country.

Comment

¶3. (C) Post also welcomes this announcement. Setting the date for the election will allow the Election Commission, the

political parties, and various donors to swing into action to prepare for the polls. Now that the constitutional and legal framework for the elections is in place, the biggest remaining hurdle is the security situation. We will continue to urge the GON to take necessary steps to improve the security environment, including by cracking down on Maoist abuses and by isolating ethnic extremists in the Terai.

MORIARTY